

BIG WAR AS HUNS SEEK WEAK SPOT

NEW AIR PROBES; BAKER DEFENDS; WILSON ANXIOUS

President Encourages Sweeping Scrutiny; Four Investigations Now.

Justice Probe Deep SECRET FIGURES GIVEN

Assistant Attorney General Instructed to Search Out Crime.

President Wilson yesterday openly encouraged sweeping official scrutiny of the conduct of the aircraft division of the War Department. Four investigations already have been instituted.

The Senate Military Affairs Committee began the work of determining how and where the \$600,000,000 appropriated many months ago for aeroplanes had been expended. The House Military Committee started an inquiry along similar lines.

Attorney General Gregory, by order of the President, adopted plans to develop all evidence of crime that can be found, and carry out prosecutions. Secretary Baker, of the War Department, was directed to investigate along technical and scientific lines to ascertain if the standards adopted were likely to yield the best possible product in aircraft, inquiry along similar lines.

Investigations Independent. Each investigation is to function independent of the others, but cooperation is expected to the common end of bringing out the truth about aircraft conditions. If there has been graft, fraud, inefficiency or false claims as to what is being accomplished, it is promised that the country will get the facts and the offenders brought to justice.

The Senate committee's investigation has already revealed that not one American built battleplane has been sent to France. Here is the comment of Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the committee:

"This whole business has been camouflaged and misrepresented to the American people. It has only been recently that planes have been supplied in adequate quantities for training purposes."

"This committee proposes to put its finger on the men responsible. We do not propose to engage in any whitewashing process, either."

President Wilson's personal interest in the Liberty Motor, about which many of the whispered charges are centered, is revealed by a secret order given two days ago for tests by experts. The order went to trusted officials of the War and Navy departments. The reports have been made and are now at the White House. It is understood that highly satisfactory results are shown.

Nothing is being said officially about the private investigation the President is conducting. It is understood, however, he will privately obtain expert opinion on each branch of aircraft production in order properly to judge the conclusion reached by the several governmental bodies which will call witnesses.

In a letter sent to one of the members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, the President said he entirely approved the line of investigation which the committee proposed to follow. He also said it was proper for the Senate to make an independent inquiry, as a branch of the War Department appeared to be under charges.

Conference at White House. The entire question of ventilating the aircraft situation was taken up at the cabinet meeting. Secretary Baker and Secretary Daniels, with Attorney General Gregory, remained.

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Advertising Talks (For Advertiser and Reader.)

There are 400,000 people in Washington who must buy their clothing, furniture, drugs, paint, everything they use, right here in Washington.

How many are on your books, Mr. Merchant? How many know anything about you at all, except in a general way? How many know your goods, your prices? How many know of any reason why they should prefer your store to another?

There are 100,000 people, 30,000 families in Washington who know The Herald, who

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GEN. MAURICE STIRS ENGLISH WITH LETTER

Disputes Statements of Prime Minister Regarding British Armies.

SAYS MEN SHIFTED

Claims Haig Line Weakened by Taking Forces to Other Points.

London, May 7.—Political circles here were stirred today by the publication in a number of leading newspapers, including Lord Northcliffe's Times, of a letter by Maj. Gen. F. B. Maurice, challenging the correctness of statements made by Premier Lloyd George and Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law with regard to the strength and disposition of the British forces when the German drive opened.

Maj. Gen. Maurice was until recently chief director of military operations in the war office.

Disputes Lloyd George. In his letter he disputes the prime minister's implied statement in the House of Commons that Field Marshal Haig's forces were not diminished during 1917. He also takes exception to the premier's statement that only one white infantry division is in Mesopotamia and that three white divisions are in Egypt and Palestine.

Critics of the Lloyd George government recently charged that important British forces were shifted to other theaters and that the resistance on the western front had been thus weakened.

The Daily Chronicle, Morning Post, Globe, Star and Westminster Gazette, in commenting on Gen. Maurice's letter, assert that the matter should be cleared by a parliamentary hearing, which is what Maurice asks in his letter.

Explains Action. In explaining his action in writing to the press, the former War Office spokesman declares he felt it is his duty as a citizen—above that as a soldier—to take this course, since he believed the morale of the troops should not be impaired by misstatements.

The Maurice letter was published, in addition to the Times, in the Morning Post, Daily News, Daily Chronicle and Manchester Guardian. General Maurice's letter came up in the House of Commons today. To an inquiry from ex-Premier Asquith, Chancellor Bonar Law said the government proposed to invite two judges to investigate the statements privately. He added that "most secret documents" must be gone into to determine the truth or untruth of the allegations.

The government, says the Times, would give a day to thorough discussion of the matter and the army council would be called upon to consider the question of military discipline. He concluded by saying that ex-Premier Asquith will be allowed to nominate the official investigating judge if he desired to do so.

General Maurice's Record. Maj. Gen. Maurice has been chief director of military operations at the War Office for many months and had come to be looked upon by the press as the official spokesman of the British command in the British and foreign press. In his

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GERMAN AUTHORITIES DRAFT 700 BELGIANS

Decree Orders Men of German Parentage Into Ranks.

Seven hundred young men born in Brussels have been sent to Germany to serve in the Kaiser's army, despite their Belgian birth and citizenship, because their parents were born in Germany. News of this latest rigor of the German occupation in Belgium is contained in a dispatch from the Petit Parisien, repeated in diplomatic dispatches here yesterday.

"It is known," says the Petit Parisien, "that a decree of Von Falkenhayn, on December 15, 1917, subjected to German control all persons of German descent of both sexes under the general government in occupied Belgium. In virtue of this arbitrary decree, 700 young men living in Brussels and its suburbs, born in Belgium of German parentage, but having been taken to Germany to be incorporated into the Kaiser's army."

Ukrainian Troops Disarmed

German Commander Acts—Peasantry Spurns New Government.

London, May 7.—An Ukrainian division has been disarmed by Gen. von Elchhorn, German military commander in the Ukraine, according to the Kurier Kievski, a Kiev newspaper. The Kurier adds that the situation in the Ukraine is more serious, the Ukrainian peasantry refuses to recognize the new government.

Lusitania Sinking Services. Anniversary Solemnly Observed at Queenstown, Ireland.

London, May 7.—The anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania was observed at Queenstown today by a solemn ceremony. Flags were at half-mast throughout the town.

President Fixes May 20-25 Official "Red Cross Week"

President Wilson, in a proclamation issued yesterday, appealed to the American people to help the Red Cross in its second campaign to raise \$100,000,000. The war fund drive begins May 20 and continues through that week, which the President has designated "Red Cross Week." His proclamation follows:

"Inasmuch as the war fund of 1917, so generously contributed by the American people to the American Red Cross for the administration of relief at home and abroad, has been practically exhausted by appropriations for the welfare of the men in our military and naval forces, and for those dependent upon them, and for the yet more urgent necessities of our allies, military and civilian, who have long borne the brunt of the war;

"Inasmuch as the year of our own participation in the war has brought unprecedented demands upon the patriotism and liberality of our people and made evident the necessity of concentrating the work of relief in one main organization which can respond effectively and universally to the needs of humanity under the stress of war; and

"Inasmuch as the duration of the war and the closer and closer co-operation of the American Red Cross with our own army and navy, with the governments of our allies, and with foreign relief organizations, have resulted in the discovery of new opportunities of helpfulness under conditions which translate opportunity into duty; and

"Inasmuch as the American Red Cross council and commissioners in Europe have faithfully and economically administered the people's trust; now,

"Therefore, by virtue of my authority as President of the United States and president of the American Red Cross, I, Woodrow Wilson, do hereby proclaim the week beginning May 20, 1918, as 'Red Cross Week,' during which the people of the United States will be called upon again to give generously to the continuation of the important work of relieving distress, restoring the waste of war and assisting in maintaining the morale of our own troops and the troops and peoples of our allies by this manifestation of effort and sacrifice on the part of those who, though not privileged to bear arms, are of one spirit, purpose, and determination with our warriors.

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done in the District of Columbia this 7th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and forty-second.

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

By the President: ROBERT LANSING, Secretary of State.

PERSIANS CANNIBALS WAR Famine Result

People Are Compelled to Eat Grass, Dogs, Dead Animals and Even Human Beings, State Department Learns.

Cannibalism in Persia is one of the horrors of famine in that country reported to the State Department yesterday. Through the Armenian Relief Society word has been received that food has almost disappeared. People have been compelled to eat grass, dogs, dead animals and even human beings. Typhus and typhoid are raging.

Some time ago Persia asked the United States for a loan to order food to meet this food situation, but reply had to be made that the laws of the United States do not permit loans to any but countries associated with the United States in the war against Germany.

Asked Relief Society. Nevertheless the State Department turned over the appeal to the Armenian Relief Society, and when society, it was said at the department yesterday, has responded

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WILSON "DUCKS IN;" STUNG FOR WAR TAX

Small Boys Are Envious When President Gets Under Canvas and Sees Elephants Without Being "Snagged."

A boy, named Woodrow Wilson, got caught ducking under the tent at the circus last night. Upon apprehension by a man in red and gold uniform he was compelled to pay 15 cents for war tax and allowed to stay and see the show.

The war tax payment was insisted upon, because when he's not at the circus, this boy happens to be President of the United States and solemnly sworn to uphold, among other things, the law that imposes the taxes.

Sure the policeman was looking when the President slipped under the flaps of the large tent. In fact, they included Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. William H. Bolling, John Randolph Bolling and Wilmer Bolling, arrived at the circus grounds they found what the circus press agent declared to be:

"The largest aggregation of men, women and pretty children ever assembled for the great American summer festival, circus night, 16,000 souls."

So the President, like any other

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ARTILLERY ACTIVE ALONG WHOLE LYS FRONT WHILE INFANTRY REMAINS QUIET

HUN CONTROL OF NEAR EAST NOW DWINDLING

Swedish Socialist Tells Why Barbarity As Policy Is Dismal Failure.

GERMANS LOSE GRIP

Czernin Gone, Von Seydler's Courts-Martial Sicken Rest of Cabinet.

The mask has been torn from German imperialism in the past by the fall of Czernin and subsequent events.

This is the opinion of Hjalmar Branting, the distinguished Swedish socialist, who generally speaks for the bulk of liberal sentiment in the Scandinavian neutral countries. An interview with him was called to Washington in diplomatic dispatches received here yesterday.

"The strength of Branting's words is generally accepted here as marking the definite end of any possibility that any of the northern neutrals will ever line up with Germany. It is suggested here that this change of opinion has been brought about by the ruthless conduct of Germany in Finland as well as in the east."

Huns Lust for Food.

At the same time there have been received here details of the political turmoil in Austria and the desperate methods employed by the Germans to wrest food from the hungry Ukrainian peasants.

These reports tell that German courts-martial have taken over the administration of justice in the Ukraine, and that Von Seydler has determined to fight the spirit of independence in the subject nationalities in Austria to a finish and with any means in his power.

Hjalmar Branting was asked by the representative of the Havas agency if he did not believe the fall of Czernin was a setback to the use of democracy.

"The fall of Czernin is a good thing," he replied.

"According to my idea the fall of Czernin has created a definite situation. His fine phrases upon the good relations he hoped to establish with nations made a strong impression upon neutrals. They made them forget there was in reality the vassal of German imperialism."

"While making a good impression upon the galleries the brutal peace of Brest-Litovsk and of Bucharest was being imposed upon the conquered nations. In bestowal such miserable treatment upon the Central powers and Rumania, Czernin threw off his mask and showed what the partisans of a democratic peace might expect from him."

"It is assuredly a very fortunate thing for obtaining a durable peace."

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TEUTONIC ALLIES SIGN "PEACE OF BUCHAREST"

Rumanian Capital is Scene of Ceremony Described as "Solemn."

London, May 7.—A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam says it is officially announced from Bucharest that a peace treaty between the central powers and Rumania was signed this morning by the plenipotentiaries of the four allied Teutonic powers.

The signatures were affixed to the treaty in the same room in the Rumanian capital in which the entry of Rumania into the war was decided upon. The text of the treaty will be published shortly. The peace is to be known as the "Peace of Bucharest."

German dispatches describe the meeting as extremely "solemn" and columns of newspaper space are devoted to the details. Foreign Minister Kuchemann was chairman at the deliberations.

Copenhagen, May 7.—German newspapers arriving here state that the petrol monopoly, which has been wrung from Rumania, is to be introduced immediately in its Germanized form.

Rumania, these papers show, must also send to Germany all surplus grain for the next two years.

The Northern part of the Dobruja will not be joined to Bulgaria, but will be governed by a commission representing the Central Powers, its ultimate fate to be decided later.

WIRELESS OUTFIT FOUND.

Discovered On Roof of Hotel In Cumberland, Md.

Cumberland, Md., May 7.—A full wireless outfit was discovered today in the room occupied by Foster H. Cale, on the top floor of a hotel. Cale was charged with stealing an automobile from E. C. McCulloch, of that place, and trying to sell it here. Discovery of the wireless outfit was made in the room where Cale was staying.

Yankees Have New Name for Germans

New York, May 7.—A new name has been found by American fighting men in France for the Hun, according to a letter received today from a United States marine. Not understanding just how the word "boche" would be pronounced, the Americans hit upon calling them "Huns," "bushers," a term understood by all as carrying the full amount of contempt they feel for the enemy.

Official Reports From War Fronts

BRITISH.

London, May 7.—Tonight's official war office statement says:

"There was considerable artillery activity on other parts of the battle fronts."

"There is nothing further to report."

FRENCH.

Paris, May 7.—The text of tonight's war office communiqué is as follows:

"There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front."

"An enemy surprise attack south of Hartmannswillerkopf was repulsed."

"There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front."

"Aviation.—Yesterday we brought down in air fighting four German machines. Ten others fell out of control within the German lines."

"We dropped 1-2 tons of bombs on the Flavius, Marais, Meaux, Ham, Guiscard and Noyon stations."

ITALIAN.

London, May 7.—The Italian official statement tonight says: West of Mont Stabai in the neighborhood of Presno, in the Chiese Valley on Dosso Casina and the northern slopes of Mont Alimasio we dispersed and

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RUSSIAN BLACK SEA FLEET BOMBS HUNS

Report Indicates Some of Warships Remain Uncaptured.

Berlin, via London, May 7.—Russian warships have bombarded German forces in the harbor of Mariupol, the war office announced tonight. The statement follows:

"In the harbor establishments of Mariupol we were bombarded by Russian ships."

Mariupol is a Russian seaport on the north shore of the Sea of Azov, 140 miles southeast of Yekaterinograd. The Berlin statement indicates that part of the Russian Black Sea fleet is still at large and actively opposing the German invasion along the Littoral in the direction of the Caucasus.

The fact that the Berlin war office takes occasion to make a special announcement of the attack by Russian ships may indicate that the Germans thus wish to justify further aggressive measures in Russia.

The special provision in connection with the conquest of Russia is to join the Russian Black Sea fleet with the Turkish naval forces and attack the allied bases in the Mediterranean.

Must Hold Vimy.

As long as Vimy is held by Haig, the flanks of the German wedges will be constantly in danger, while once Vimy is taken the whole British front between the wedges may be compelled to draw westward almost to a level with the front facing the two spearheads. Gen. von Below is presently mentioned as the most likely pilot of the next German drive. The best estimate is that Hindenburg still has close to 300,000 troops that can be used in the new stroke.

The company supplied a Belgian relief ship with high volatile coal instead of the so-called smokeless coal which the Fuel Administration has designated specifically as suitable for bunkering vessels which must pass through the submarine zone.

Whether any of the vessels so supplied by this company were lost at sea, or were even actually endangered, is not made public by the Fuel Administration. The special provision for this kind of coal was particularly with the view of protecting commercial and naval vessels that must traverse the danger zone.

The company delivered to the complained-of coal to the "President Bunge" engaged in transporting shipments for the Belgian Relief Commission, and other steamships at Atlantic ports, and for use in these ships in their bunkers. It was ordered to pay \$1,000 to the Belgian Relief.

The Fuel Administration heard Robert H. Burrows, secretary-treasurer and general manager, and Henry W. Hardon, attorney, and then determined:

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Artillery Monopolizes Field as Von Arnim Still Holds Back.

GERMANS FEEL OUT FOR WEAKEST SPOT

Feints at Various Points Seem to Indicate Arras Attack.

London, May 7.—It is now eight days since Von Arnim's shock troops broke their heads against the Anglo-French wall in Flanders, and still he has not recovered sufficiently to renew the attempt to reap the fruits of Kemmel's capture.

Again the day was monopolized by the big guns; again the British and French heavies registered as much spunk and fervor as their Teuton bakers opposing them. It is this increasingly effective allied counter battery work that is adding daily to the confidence here that when the next blow is struck by Hindenburg it will be a boom-crang, as the one in Flanders a week ago yesterday.

Haig reports tonight that the artillery of both sides were very active north of the Lys. He adds that some activity was displayed by the guns on other parts of the battlefronts, which indicate the Germans are about ready to begin a new massed drive, and a beginning the familiar feint process, trying to find a spot in the allied lines.

German Admit Reverse. A partial admission of the A. Jans' Sunday night success at Valenciennes, when they advanced more than a quarter of a mile south and southwest of that town, came from the Berlin war office today. The statement says that the usual emphasis that the Germans were "employed" by the British for an attack. It is conceded that the Allies reached the German foremost line on both sides of the Corbie-Bray road, but Berlin asserts the "twice repeated" assault otherwise "broke down before our posts with heavy losses."

The statement also records a German raid across the Aisne Canal south of Brimont (northwest of Rheims).

Brilliant Canadian Raid. Field Marshal Haig's day bulletin, told of a brilliant raid by the Canadians near Neuville-Vitasse, southwest of Arras. They took prisoners and three machine guns, suffering only slight casualties, while killing many Germans and causing great havoc in the Teuton defenses. A German raid near Boyelles was beaten off.

From the French front the various official statements today reported only heavy gun actions.

Military opinion in the last few days has been reverting to the theory that the next German blow will be struck at Arras. It is pointed out that this important pivot, with the famous Vimy Ridge, now lies pocketed between the two German wedges, the one threatening Amiens, and the other pointing at Hazebrouck and Bethune.

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